

# BY THE WAY ...

February 2021

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Interim Pastor: Rev. John Cheek

Editor: Kathy Walsh-Americanano

## From the Pastor...

My Dear Friends:

We did it! We have survived January 2021. We have survived an armed incursion of the US Capitol. Many of us held our breaths, wondering what might happen on Inauguration Day. And what happened was that the power of the presidency of the United States passed from one man to another.

Now we look forward to what else will be coming our way this year. Some of you will receive Covid vaccinations. Some of you may refuse the vaccination. We will continue to glorify God in worship as we have for the past ten months, but, as you'll see in a separate article in this issue, we'll be adding a new opportunity for fellowship, available to those of you who use Zoom.

The Pastor Nominating Committee continues its excellent work, with the goal of identifying and calling the person who will serve you as your next Called Pastor. I may be a little over-optimistic, but I'm still hopeful that he or she may be in place sometime this spring.

In the meantime, I hope that you will take good care of yourselves, wear your masks, wash your hands, call your friends, pray for peace and justice, and enjoy the blessings of being a part of the family of God.

Richest blessings,

*Pastor John*

Thank you to everyone who sent in their  
2021 Estimate of Giving pledge.  
Our 2021 Budget has been approved by Session and is in your  
Congregational Meeting packet.

It is still not too late to send in your Estimate of Giving pledge in  
February, if you haven't already sent it in. We hope to close the  
gap in February between the pledges that have been received so  
far of \$93,938.00 to meet our 2021  
pledge budget of \$125,000.

Our Holy Way was amazing in 2020 even though we were not  
gathered most of the year. Our \$125,000 pledge budget  
was met and exceeded!

Thank you and Blessings to all of you!

—Sharon Groves, Treasurer



Eddie Meier	2-1
Barbara Locke	2-2
Sue Rollins	2-3
Ali Clay	2-9
Ellen LaCroix	2-11
Jim Rollins	2-13
Janie Saxton	2-17
Robin Thomas	2-21
Ann Toresdahl	2-24

Rev. John & Lou Cheek	2-14
Wanda & Kevin Sterner	2-14
Laura & Dudley Williams	2-15

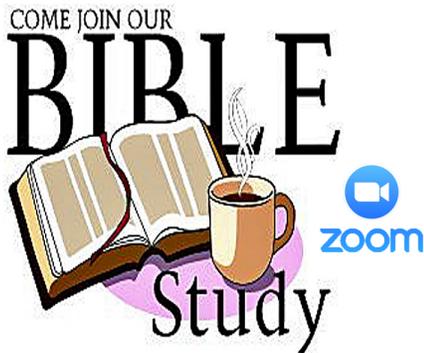


# What's Happening at Holy Way....

## COVID-19 UPDATE:

GATHERED WORSHIP IS CURRENTLY SUSPENDED. DURING THIS TIME OF PHYSICAL SEPARATION, WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO READ THE SERMONS POSTED AND ENJOY OUR WORSHIP VIDEOS ON THE WEBSITE: [WWW.HOLYWAYTUCSON.ORG](http://WWW.HOLYWAYTUCSON.ORG)

Under the worship tab, click on "online worship services"



Join us for Bible Study via Zoom or phone call **Wednesday Mornings from 9:00 a.m.– 10:00 a.m.!** Contact Pastor John at: (John@holywaytucson.org) for the Invite ID or phone number to call and let's get into the word of God!

## A New Fellowship Opportunity



Your Session members are committed to your health and to the health of The Holy Way. Because the incidence of new cases of Covid in Pima County is so high, we still don't feel that we can return to gathered worship for the time being.

However, the Session has instituted a Zoom-based prayer time and fellowship gathering **every Friday morning at 10:00 a.m., starting on Friday, February 5.** This will be a time when we can share prayer concerns, pray for one another, and catch up on how we're all doing.

The Meeting ID for this meeting will be 940 4146 5161 and the Pass Code will be 403821. Please call me in advance if you have any questions about how to attend this gathering.

Richest blessings,  
Pastor John



The following is taken from an article by Jimmie Hawkins from the Presbyterian Office of Public Witness. It was published in the January/February 2021 issue of Presbyterians Today:

*Lent is a time of spiritual renewal. It is a season of preparing during the 40 days and 6 Sundays before Easter. It is a time when we reflect upon the love of God and the gift of God's grace. It begins with Ash Wednesday, when we remember that "From dust you came and to dust you shall return."*

*Lent is not a time of anxiety about our sinfulness and worth. It is a time of reflection on what God has done to redeem us and how we can live a whole and full life as a child of God.*

*While Lent is a time for prayer, fasting, contemplation, and service—at the top of the list should be prayer for the acquisition of peace. Shalom, the Hebrew word for peace, occurs in the Bible 237 times.*

Here at The Holy Way we will be observing Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday on February 17, using themes and materials provided by PCUSA. The overall theme is Shalom. We tend to translate this word as "peace," but that word alone doesn't do justice to the Hebrew word. Jimmie Hawkins goes on to say that shalom can also be translated "as security, well-being, health, and completeness." During Lent we will look at themes of justice, peace, healing, hope, repairing, and reconciliation.

PCUSA has developed a devotional booklet to guide our Lenten journey. If you would like to have a hard copy of this devotional booklet, please call Kathy at the church office 520-883-9417 and she will mail one out to you. If you would prefer to receive the devotional booklet in email form, please email Kathy @: [Kathy@holywaytucson.org](mailto:Kathy@holywaytucson.org) and let her know that. She will email you the devotional materials one week at a time during the season of Lent.



## *Lenten Calendar*

<b>February 14</b>	Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday
<b>February 17</b>	Ash Wednesday*
<b>February 21</b>	First Sunday in Lent
<b>March 28</b>	Palm Sunday
<b>April 1</b>	Maundy Thursday
<b>April 2</b>	Good Friday
<b>April 4</b>	Easter

**\*On Ash Wednesday, February 17, Pastor John will be available from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for the imposition of ashes. Masks will be required.**

# The Holy Way in Action in the Community...



The first "Festival of Lights" drive-thru, handed out goodie bags, and hot chocolate. Santa and Mrs. Clause were there as well as many elves, the fire department and others to help the 3 Points community celebrate safely. There was music, Swoop, the Altar Valley Eagle mascot and many others to greet the community. At last count there were over 500 in attendance at the drive thru.

Holy Way's continuous support is great but this year's donation was HUGE!!!! Thanks ALL!!!!



The beautiful blankets that so many people gathered together and worked on for C.A.M.E .in Aqua Prieta last spring reached their destination on Jan. 13, 2021. Thank you so very much Greg and Cathy Hershberger for delivering them to Mark Adams at Frontera de Cristo in Douglas.

The community there is in dire need of the warmth especially right now. They went and were delivered in Christ's love and with the love of the Holy Way.

In spite of the difficulties of 2020 God has remained in control in every way. Praise His Precious Name!



## Recent Friends that have been Witness to the Resurrection

**Jackie Hench -1/15/2021**

**Mary Lynn -1/20/2021**

**Tom Bernardo -1/30/2021**

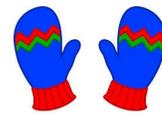
Please keep the families of our beloved brother and sisters in your thoughts and prayers. May God's peace and comfort be with them.



The Food Pantry has been cleaned up and updated! We are resuming **Food Bank Sundays!** The 1st Sunday of each month, we welcome your donations of non-perishable food to help the Food Pantry and our community partner, *Papago United Presbyterian Church*, which helps food get distributed to the Friends of Robles Food Bank. You can drop off your donations in the narthex during regular hours. Thank you for your generosity!

## Warming Up Sells

A donation of warm clothes and blankets for the Presbyterian Church in Sells, Arizona was picked up in January. Their church will distribute our donations to the people who live in the Tohono O' Odham Nation. If you like to knit or crochet, you might be interested in making hats and scarves to donate. There are patterns in the church narthex. There is also a donation box in the narthex for warm clothes, blankets and completed projects. Thank you!



## Estimates of Giving

Many of you have returned your Estimates of Giving but some of you have asked, *'what is an Estimate of Giving and why do we ask you to return one?'* At the beginning of every year, our church creates a proposed budget of the estimated expenses for the year. Session can proportion our budget accordingly, based on the pledges received from the Estimates of Giving. The Presbytery also asks us to send in "our" Estimate of Giving so they can plan *their* budget. If you haven't yet, but would still like to return your Estimate of Giving, you will find the form on the next page. You can mail it to the church or email to: [Kathy@holywaytucson.org](mailto:Kathy@holywaytucson.org).

# PNC Update

Your PNC has been extremely busy this past January. We ended up with over 50 Pastor Information Forms (PIFs) to review and evaluate! There were actually more, but we had to move on to the next step in the process of selecting a new pastor for The Holy Way. We narrowed our top list of best candidates down to five that are all available and very interested in The Holy Way. At the time of this writing, we have interviewed two and will interview three more by the first week in February. You'll be happy to know that your PNC is very excited about these candidates, and even better all seven of us are in agreement on these choices.

The next step is to pick the top three candidates that we want to invite to visit Tucson to meet with our PNC and to check-out the area – notwithstanding COVID-19. The thinking is that we will probably invite our top choice, and if they feel called here, we will then start negotiations. If any road blocks are encountered, we move to inviting the next in line. Remember, on these trips they are evaluating The Holy Way church and Tucson in general as much as we are evaluating them. Some are from California and some from as far away as Georgia. Of course, we are relying on God to make clear to us His choice for The Holy Way, and as before, we (and you all please) are praying that the Holy Spirit will work within each of us to discern His will. Our goal is to have a recommendation for the congregation to approve before the next newsletter is published.



Looking for a purpose in life?  
What if?  
As we suspect, that heaven is upside down from this world.  
What if?  
We were angels and being born was an up-grade?  
What if?  
The stroke, cancer, (fill in the blank) was a promotion?  
What if?  
Aging and arthritis is a new assignment?  
If so, Plan on them being for a higher purpose.

-Written by Mary Scillieri



# Masking in the Era of COVID



It's been about a year now since we have all had the discussion of wearing a mask, social isolation, and hand washing. We are still having these discussions! The importance of taking precautions to avoid infections with the COVID-19 virus has become clear as we see the numbers of those infected with the virus continue to rise. As of this writing, Arizona has had 748,260 souls diagnosed with COVID. 13,022 of those are with Jesus. Pima County has 100,272 diagnosed COVID cases, and 1,736 of those have died.

What is the best type of mask? What will give the best protection from the virus particles? The preferred mask is the N-95, but due to availability these are currently being deferred to the first line health care providers in Arizona.

Per the CDC here are the masks to **avoid**:

- Loose masks. Gaps will let the virus get under the mask.
- Masks made from loosely woven material. If you can hold the fabric up to the light and the light shines through, don't use it.
- One layer masks.
- Masks with exhalation valves or vents.
- Scarves, gators, or ski masks.
- Masks made with material that is difficult to breathe through (plastic or leather).

With the virus mutations, there is now the thought that wearing two masks is what we should be doing. (Research is out on this one, but I did see Dr. Anthony Fouchi wearing a double mask during a press conference.) If you choose to wear two masks, especially if your mask is one or two layers thick, place a disposable mask under it. The disposable masks tend to have gaps, but if you put the disposable mask under the cloth mask that fits tightly, the cloth mask will eliminate the gaps. Be sure the outer mask has the metal prongs that you can pinch around your nose to help hold the mask in place above the nostrils, close off the gap around the bridge of the nose, and prevent your glasses from fogging.

Some cloth masks have a pocket in which a HEPA filter can be placed. If you don't have a mask like this, consider taking a vacuum cleaner bag and cutting a piece to fit inside your mask. Some research studies have determined that vacuum bags are among the best materials to catch small particles. A cloth mask plus a filter can block up to 74-90 percent infectious particles.

The CDC is working on developing filtration standards that will indicate how well they block infectious particles—look for this around April.

Be cautious if you find a “bargain” N95 mask. Counterfeits are surfacing. The CDC (CDC.gov) publishes a list of N95 masks that do not fit their standards.

Want more info on masks: check out AARP “Double Masking for COVID: Are Two Face Masks Better than One?” by Michelle Crouch, dated January 25, 2021. Popular Mechanics also has a good article on masks: “Cloth Masks, Surgical Masks, N95s, or Double Masks: Which are Safest?” By Courtney Linder, dated January 22, 2021



February is Black History Month and we invite you to check-out these intriguing books available in our church office Library.

**How To Be An Antiracist** by Ibrim X Kendi

**White Fragility** by Robin Deangelo

**Me and White Supremacy** by Layla F Saad

**So, You Want to Talk About Race** by Ijeoma Oluo

**Waking Up White** by Debby Irving

**White Too Long:** The Legacy of White Supremacy in American Christianity  
by Robert P. Jones

**Evicted:** Poverty and Profit in the American City by Matthew Desmond

**Caste:** The Origins of Our Discontents by Isabel Wilkerson

**The Color of Law:** A Forgotten History of How Our Government  
Segregated America by Richard Rothstein

**Burying White Privilege:** Resurrecting a Badass Christianity  
by Miquel A. De La Torre

**Black Like Me** by John Howard Griffin and Robert Bonazzi

**Just Mercy** by Bryan Stevenson

**A Collar in My Pocket** by Jane Elliott

**Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man** by Emmanuel Acho  
**Monster** by Walter Dean Myers

The 'library' with these books along with check-out/check-in sheets are on the counter by the sink in the church office. Pastor John is in the office on Sundays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Please call 520-883-9714 first to make sure he is available for you to come in and select a book.

# Celebrating a Celebrated Legacy: Martin Luther King

Alfonso Valenzuela, January 23, 2021

Prior to the inauguration of President Joseph Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris at our nation's capital, I had intended to write a commentary based on the vitriol and images viewed by millions on January 6, 2021. But, for some mysterious reason, I delayed my decision momentarily, until those disturbing and destructive images could no longer be restrained, but linked to Dr. Martin Luther King, one of our greatest defenders of the oppressed. How ironic, that the traditional inaugural activities occurred days after our nation celebrated his birthday.

Hearing excerpts from Dr. King's speeches in the South and in Washington, D.C, still resound with clarity of purpose and inspiration. The eloquence, choice of words, imagery and historical references he incorporated into his oratory, continue to uplift a nation seeking reconciliation. Sadly, there are still pockets of cynical and prejudiced naysayers who have yet to acknowledge the disparity between a white majority culture and a growing culturally diverse population.

One of the oft-quoted lines of Dr. King's **I Have a Dream** speech in August 28, 1963 serves to illustrate the manner in which we as a nation must view each other: ***I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.***

The attempted insurrection on January 6, 2021 by those seeking to preserve a way of life counter to the basic tenets written in the U.S. Constitution is no different than the ugly and bloody encounters soon after George Floyd's arrest and death. This brutal display by law enforcement officers in Minneapolis, on May 25, 2020, sparked indignation all across our nation and abroad. As a result, we are obligated to denounce the savagery and bigotry occurring on those days. More so, we must ensure that those in power at the highest levels of government abide by the oath they took as Servants of The People.

Character then, defines us, through the intended selection of words and acts. Surely, the words and acts by the people who desecrated the hallowed grounds of governance established over two centuries ago, do not reflect the pronouncements of Dr. King. An echo of his plea for basic human understanding is revealed by another world figure in this passage: ***When I meet people in different parts of the world, I am always reminded that we are all basically alike: we are all human beings. Maybe we have different clothes, our skin is of a different color, or we speak different languages. That is on the surface. But basically, we are the same human beings. That is what binds us to each other. That is what makes it possible for us to understand each other and to develop friendship and closeness.***—14<sup>th</sup> Dali Lama of Tibet.

As we celebrate Black History Month, heeding the words of two men who have stood firm in their convictions at different times and places, may well serve us The People, and those who are obligated to do so, in the name of justice and liberty for all.

# February 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						



Transfiguration of  
The Lord



5:00 pm  
Session Zoom Meeting



ASH  
WEDNESDAY

10:00 am  
Zoom Fellowship



10:00 am  
Zoom Fellowship



*I have loved you with an everlasting love - Jeremiah 31:3*